

Arizona Reading Standard Performance Level Descriptors

Grade 5

The performance descriptors are based upon the utilization of grade level-appropriate reading materials.

Exceeds the Standard – Students who score in this level illustrate a superior academic performance as evidenced by achievement that is substantially beyond the goal for all students. Students who perform at this level demonstrate strong analytical and inferential skills in comprehending more challenging text. They are able to evaluate author’s effectiveness, differentiate fact from opinion, and draw defensible conclusions based upon evidence from the text.

Meets the Standard – Students who score in this level demonstrate a solid academic performance on subject matter as reflected by the reading standard. Students who perform at this level are able to effectively apply reading strategies to comprehend text. They will be able to identify themes, analyze implied ideas and concepts, and interpret figurative language. Recognition of author’s use of persuasive language and techniques also characterizes this level.

Approaches the Standard – Students who score in this level show partial understanding of the knowledge and application of the skills that are fundamental for proficient work. Students who perform at this level show a basic understanding of text, fiction, and non-fiction. They can identify genre, setting, main characters, and the author’s purpose. Students are able to recall specific information and draw conclusions from simple texts. Some gaps in knowledge and skills are evident and may require additional instruction and remediation in order to achieve a satisfactory level of understanding.

Falls Far Below the Standard – Students who score in this level may have significant gaps and limited knowledge and skills that are necessary to satisfactorily meet the state’s reading standard. Students will usually require a considerable amount of additional instruction and remediation in order to achieve a satisfactory level of understanding.

Students at the “Exceeds the Standard” level generally know the skills required at the “Meets” and “Approaches” levels and are able to:	Students at the “Meets the Standard” level generally know the skills required at the “Approaches” level and are able to:	Students at the “Approaches the Standard” level generally know and are able to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use inference to draw conclusions requiring abstract reasoning. • Identify organizational text features. • Identify the components of plot. • Distinguish among various forms of poetry. • Determine meaning of text using cultural and historical knowledge. • Determine author’s position. • Differentiate fact from opinion in informational text. • Determine implied feelings and attitudes in informational text. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use context clues to determine the meaning of words, phrases, and idioms. • Use inference to draw conclusions from complex texts. • Distinguish between major and minor characters. • Identify the main idea in literary and informational text. • Locate stated information embedded in literary texts. • Identify theme in literary text. • Analyze implied ideas to comprehend informational text. • Use organizational features to locate specific information. • Interpret figurative language. • Identify author’s use of persuasive language. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use root words and affixes to determine the meaning of words. • Use inference to draw conclusions from simple texts. • Identify aspects of setting. • Identify the genre of literary text. • Identify specific facts in informational text. • Determine the author’s purpose. • Use sequencing to recall specific information.

These descriptors do not include all the skills and knowledge as contained in the Reading Standard.